

RURAL DISTRICT OF WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1971

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Deryck E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.F.C.M., M.R.S.H.

LOCUM DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. Pinching, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

S.Harkness, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

T.E. Mason, M.A.P.H.I.

COMMITTEES DEALING WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee

Housing Committee

INDEX

PAGE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

General Statistics	3
Vital Statistics	3 & 4
Vital Statistics (5-Year Table)	5
Notifiable Diseases	5
Causes of Death	6 & 7
Mass Radiography Service	7
Notes on Vital Statistics	8
Notes on Notifiable Diseases	8
Annual Return of Food Poisoning etc.	9
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959	9
National Assistance Act, 1948, etc.	9

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	10
Water Supplies	11
Chemical Analyses of Water	12 & 13
Bacteriological Results	14
Water Supplies to Individual Villages	15 & 16
Inspections	17
Ice Cream	17
Slaughterhouses	17
Refuse Collection	18
Food Inspection	19
Distribution & Sale of Milk	19
Factories Act 1937 & Outworkers	20
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	20
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957	21
Public Health Act, 1936 - Legal Proceedings	21
Meat Inspection	22



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30245977>

Tel: Wells 73379
Wells 72643 (Residence)

Area Health Office,
37 Chamberlain Street,
WELLS.
Somerset.
BA5 2PQ.

4th July 1972.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Wells Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1972, prepared in accordance with Circular 1/72 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

As regards the vital statistics, the birth rate again remained below county and national rates, whilst the death rate approximated the national average; there was only one stillbirth and one infant death in the District, and no maternal mortality. Causes of death remained in much the same order but deaths from accidents fell to almost a third of the previous year's figure. Notifiable Diseases were of a low order.

The work of the Council on the environmental hygiene side has again been admirably described by the Chief Public Health Inspector in his Report, to which I commend the interest of Members, and I am most grateful to him and his Deputy for their wholehearted cooperation at all times.

My thanks are recorded to the Clerk, Surveyor, other Officers of the Council and Members for their continued courtesy and support, and to my secretary, Mrs. M.A. Paton for the entire assembly of this Report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D.E. CLARE.
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District (in acres)	...	...	57,175
Population (mid-year 1970)	...	...	11,160
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	3,594
Rateable Value	...	...	£317,482
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	£1,279.74

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1971

(with comparative figures for Somerset and England & Wales where available)

BIRTHS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Wells R.D.C.</u>		<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> (Provisional)
				<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
Legitimate	74	64	138				
Illegitimate	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>				
Total	80	71	151			9,079	783,165
Rate per 1,000 population				13.5	14.2	16.5	16.0
(Area Births Comparability Factor 1.05)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of Local corrected rate to National rate .89							

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

(per cent of total live births) 9.0 6.0 8.0

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	1	-	1			112	8,826
Illegitimate	-	-	-			<u>9</u>	<u>1,072</u>
Total	1	-	1			121	9,898
Rate per 1,000 live & still births				7.0		13.0	12.0

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

81 71 152 9,200 793,063

DEATHS

<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u> (all ages)	96	124	220			7,575	567,345
Rate per 1,000 population				19.7	11.4	10.5	11.6
(Area Deaths Comparability Factor .58)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of Local corrected rate to National Rate .99							

INFANT DEATHS (under 1 year)

Legitimate	-	1	1			124	12,140
Illegitimate	-	-	-			<u>16</u>	<u>1,586</u>
Total	-	1	1			140	13,726
(Under 4 weeks)							
Legitimate	-	-	-			79	8,121
Illegitimate	-	-	-			<u>10</u>	<u>992</u>
Totals	-	-	-			89	9,113

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1971 (CONTD)

<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 week)	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Wells R.D.</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> (Provisional)
Legitimate	-	-	-			66	6,903
Illegitimate	-	-	-			7	847
Total	-	-	-			73	7,750

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant deaths per 1,000	7.0	15.0	18.0
Total Live Births			
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	7.0	14.5	17.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	NIL	20.0	24.0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES

(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	NIL	10.0	12.0
--	-----	------	------

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	NIL	8.0	10.0
---	-----	-----	------

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live & still births)	7.0	21.0	22.0
---	-----	------	------

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)

Number of deaths.	NIL	1	
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births	NIL	.11	

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 1967 - 1971

WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR SOMERSET AND ENGLAND AND WALES

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
1. <u>Corrected Birth Rate</u>					
Wells Rural District	15.0	14.7	15.3	13.7	14.2
Somerset	17.7	16.9	16.8	15.1	16.5
England & Wales	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0	16.0
2. <u>Corrected Death Rate</u>					
Wells Rural District	8.26	10.6	8.6	10.0	11.4
Somerset	10.1	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.5
England & Wales	11.2	11.9	11.9	11.7	11.6
3. <u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>					
Wells Rural District	25.0	6.4	6.0	28.0	7.0
Somerset	14.0	15.6	16.0	17.0	15.0
England & Wales	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (5 YEAR PERIOD 1967 - 1971)

DISEASE	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	12	2	-
Measles	207	55	13	90	16
Tuberculosis (Non respiratory)	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	5	-	-	-
	210	60	26	94	17

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1971

(As given by the Registrar-General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & up
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Leukaemia	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-
Benign and Unspeci- fied Neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	12	16
	F	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	41
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
	F	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	15
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & up	
Pneumonia	M	23	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	9	9	
	F	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	18	
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Asthma	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Other Diseases, Genito- Urinary System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Symptoms and Ill- Defined Conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
All other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
Suicide and Self- Inflicted Injuries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
All Other External Causes	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	
<hr/>														
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	96	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	15	31	41	
	F	124	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	6	9	15	91	

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Union Street Car Park, Wells, at monthly intervals during the year for the benefit of General Practitioner referrals. The number of these included in the figures given below was 10.

	Male	Female	Total
Numbers examined	165	200	365
Abnormalities detected	2	3	5
<u>DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES DETECTED</u>			
Bronchitis & Emphysema	2	-	2
Dorsal Scoliosis	-	2	2
Spontaneous Pneumothorax	-	1	1

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1971

(Although as a general rule the figures are too small for much significance to be attached to them, nevertheless certain broad statements can be made).

Population

The mid-year population given by the Registrar General's 1971 Census shows an increase of 150 over that for 1970 and deaths exceeded live births by 69, largely due to the elderly population in the Mendip Hospital.

Births

Live Births - rose by 8 from the previous year to a total of 151 but the birth rate remained below the rates for Somerset and England & Wales. The percentage of illegitimate live births rose to a figure higher than the National average and that of the County.

Still Births - fell to 1 only giving a Still Birth Rate noticeably better than the County and National Figures.

Deaths

All Ages - rose by 30 over the figure for 1970 to a total of 220. When adjusted by the Area Deaths Comparability Factor the death rate was higher than that of the County but was fractionally lower than the figure for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality - with only 1 death, and that occurring at under 1 year of age, Neonatal and Early Neo-natal mortality rates were nil, whilst Infant Mortality and Perinatal Mortality Rates were markedly less than County and National rates.

Maternal Mortality - nil.

Causes of Death

Heart, Cerebrovascular and Other Diseases of the Circulatory System with 123 deaths, totalled 32 more than in 1970. Heart diseases accounted for 94 of these and cerebrovascular diseases for 26.

Respiratory Diseases were again the second largest cause of mortality in the District and their total of 49 deaths was 7 more than in the previous year. Pneumonia accounted for 43 deaths and Bronchitis and Emphysema for 2 deaths.

Cancer deaths rose to 33 from 26 in 1970 and as regards site, cancer of the lung and bronchus led with an increased total of 9 deaths, followed by stomach with 5 deaths and intestine with 4.

Accidents deaths from these fell to 5, none involving a motor vehicle and it will be seen that they were predominantly in females and in the later age groups.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (please see 5 Year Table)

Apart from 16 cases of measles and 1 case of acute encephalitis in a child of 5 years admitted to Ham Green Hospital, no other cases of notifiable disease were reported during the year.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING & HUMAN SALMONELLA
INFECTIONS

No case was notified during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959

In August 1971, information was received from County Health Department of a case of brucellosis in a young boy who drank raw milk from his father's farm and examination of the herd revealed the same infection present.

The farm was visited and the dangers of drinking raw milk pointed out, but, as the bulk milk went to a nearby creamery and cheese production unit where it was heat treated under the supervision of Ministry of Agriculture officials, a formal Heat Treatment Order was not served.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SEC.47)
AND
AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

As in 1970, the Chief Public Health Inspector and I paid regular visits to the elderly lady in Greenhill House, Cheddar, who was the subject of a Removal Order in 1968 and it was necessary to continue to apply for a renewal of the Order every 3 months.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Villages with satisfactory sewerage and sewage disposal systems are as follows:-

Wookey	
Walton	
Meare (central part of village only)	
Easton	) Joint scheme
Westbury-sub-Mendip	
Rodney Stoke	) Joint scheme
Draycott	
Butleigh	) Joint scheme
Butleigh Wootton	
Baltonsborough	

The drainage systems of houses erected in the above villages during the last twelve months were connected to public sewers.

The proposals for sewerage Worth, Yarley, Henton and Bleadney referred to in the last report were finally approved and work commenced on 5th April, 1971. This scheme is of particular interest as alterations to the Wookey Sewage Disposal Works were required in order to provide capacity for the additional effluent and the opportunity was taken to incorporate a PASVEER Ditch in the treatment process. It is expected that the sewers will be available for use in the summer of 1972.

Work started on the Coxley Sewerage scheme in June 1971 and is expected to be completed in about twelve months. Treatment in this case will be at Burcott Sewage Disposal Works which are being enlarged not only to provide capacity for this scheme but also for other villages and new development in Wells City.

A plan detailing sewerage arrangements for Oxenpill, Westhay, Stileway and including an extension to provide for fourteen houses at Godney was submitted to both the Department of the Environment and Somerset County Council at the end of the year. The estimated cost of the proposed works is likely to be in the region of £123,000.

Outline details of proposed sewers were submitted to the Department of the Environment in respect of the villages of East and West Horrington, Dulcote, Dinder and North Wootton with a preliminary estimate of cost in the sum of £180,000.

Tenders for the West Pennard Sewerage scheme were about to be invited at the close of the year and it was hoped that the successful contractor would be able to commence work in the early part of 1972.

WATER SUPPLIES

Fortunately sufficient water was available for all purposes in each village during the whole of the year.

The Statutory undertakers, Bristol Waterworks Company again report that the waters used for distribution to consumers are not plumbo solvent.

MAINS LAID BY BRISTOL WATERWORKS COMPANY

IN WELLS R.D.C. AREA DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Length of Main - In Metres					
Size of Main	3"	4"	6"	8"	10"
Trunk Mains	483	-	971	1561	398
Tapping Mains	718	5570	742	-	-

1971

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER FROM

Source	Total Solids	Chloride	Nitrate as N	Nitrite as N	Saline Ammon. as N	Albuminoid Ammon. as N	Oxygen Absorbed 3 hrs @ 37°C
Honeyhurst	336	18	3.6	0.001	0.008	0.005	0.05
Priddy	236	13	2.6	0.001	0.003	0.004	0.05
Southtown	490	22	0.6	0.001	0.006	0.005	0.05
Stoke Bottom	299-390	-	-	-	-	-	0.04-0.64
West Compton	463	19	2.4	0.001	0.006	0.005	0.07

SOURCES WITHIN WELLS R.D.C. AREA

Total Hardness	Calcium Hardness	Magnesium Hardness	Alkalinity	pH	Sulphate	Sodium	Potassium	Silica	Phosphate	Iron as Fe	Manganese as MN	Fluoride as F
283	236	47	245	7.3	26.1	6.0	1.1	4.8	NIL	0.01	0.01	0.1
194	176	18	180	7.4	13.7	5.7	1.7	6.0	NIL	0.01	0.01	0.1
350	304	46	299	7.1	83.1	19.0	3.1	11.0	NIL	0.22	0.01	0.3
212-252	-	-	175-245	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
398	287	111	351	7.3	48.7	10.7	3.1	6.8	-	6.01	0.01	0.1

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTSYear 1971

<u>Raw Waters</u>	No. of Samples Examined	Average No. Faecal Coliforms Per 100 ml	Average No. of Non-Faecal Coliforms Per 100 ml	Colonies on Agar 2 days @ 37°C
West Compton	25	12	28	22
Priddy	25	5	10	23
Honeyhurst	25	19	31	18
Cheddar	24	21	48	78
Stoke Bottom	24	5669	11,000	1183
<u>Treated Waters</u>	No of Samples Examined	No. Free from Faecal Coliforms	No. Free from Non-Faecal Coliforms	% Satisfactory
West Compton	48	45	44	92
Priddy	47	45	45	96
Honeyhurst	47	47	47	100
Cheddar	44	44	44	100
Stoke Bottom	46	46	46	100
Southtown	47	42	39	83
Distribution System	412	399	377	92

Remarks

At West Compton work is scheduled to improve sterilisation and Southtown source will be abandoned in 1972.

NOTES ON WATER SUPPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES

BALTONSBOROUGH

Each inhabited house has a supply laid on.

BUTLEIGH

168 houses are supplied with main water and a few of the outlying properties rely on wells.

CHEWTON MENDIP

Most of the 181 houses in this village are supplied with water from the Waldegrave Estate Company's private supply. A few properties, because of their situation, rely on wells or rain water storage.

OUT ST. CUTHBERT

East and West Horrington - 104 houses out of 153 have a piped supply and the remainder are supplied from standpipes.

Coxley - approximately 156 out of 208 are supplied with water on tap and the only suppliers now are the statutory undertakers since a new main was laid for the benefit of the residents of Coxley Wick.

Burcott - few houses but mainly relying on wells.

Easton - this village has a main water supply. 82 of the 109 house are connected to the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains and 24 rely on standpipes.

Wookey Hole, Elm Close and Haybridge - these groups of houses are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Dulcote - some 46 houses of which 33 have a piped supply derived from a small private water system installed many years ago. The quality and quantity of this supply has been satisfactory during the year.

Chilcote, Worminster, Milton and Walcombe - these small groups of houses have piped supplies from various sources and their needs appear to have been met.

DINDER

56 out of 64 houses have piped supplies from the Dinder Estate Supply. This water is derived from springs which rise near Masbury Ring. The remainder of the houses are not within reach of the mains and have to rely on wells, etc. for their water. The Dinder Estate supply is adequate in quantity for the needs of the village and the quality has been maintained by chlorination.

GODNEY

56 out of 77 houses have piped supplies from the mains of the statutory undertakers. The remainder of the houses have to rely on private supplies as they are not in compact groups or within easy reach of the trunk main.

MEARE

The Bristol Waterworks Company supply this village. 218 out of 300 houses have piped water and a few are still served by standpipe.

NORTH WOOTTON

82 out of 96 houses have piped water of good quality and unlimited quantity. The village is supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

PRIDDY

66 out of the 103 houses have piped supplies. The majority of this number are supplied from the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains but there are still a few obtaining water from agricultural systems installed by the Church Commissioners.

RODNEY STOKE

There are 301 houses in this parish and 276 are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

SHARPHAM

10 houses out of 30 have piped supplies. The remainder are not within easy reach of the main and have to haul water from one of two standpipes which have been provided.

WALTON

There are 248 houses, and all except the outlying ones now have water on tap. The total number of houses with piped water is 221.

WESTBURY-SUB-MENDIP

The total number of houses in this parish is 231 and 207 have main water.

WEST PENNARD

189 out of 207 houses have piped supplies. The remainder have standpipes within easy reach or rely on private supplies.

WOOKEY

A rather scattered parish comprising Wookey, Worth, Yarley, Henton and Bleadney. There are 354 houses in this village and 265 have piped water from the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains.

THE MENDIP HOSPITAL

This large hospital which houses over 1,000 patients and staff has its own water supply. The main source is two boreholes situated between Bristol Road and Watchet's Springs which provides the water for East and West Horrington. These boreholes are in the old red sandstone formation, and yield sufficient water for the very large demands of this hospital.

Arrangements have been made with the Bristol Waterworks Company to provide a supply in an emergency.

INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the inspections made during the year:-

<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
<u>Disinfectants</u> - supplied by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
<u>Visits</u> connected with Suspected Food Poisoning Outbreaks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
<u>Nuisances</u> - arising from foul and choked drains, foul accumulations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
<u>Drainage Works</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	327
<u>Samples</u> - of drinking water sent to the County Lab. for chemical analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
<u>Samples</u> - of drinking water sent to the P.H. Lab. for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
<u>Petroleum Acts</u> - premises licensed under Petroleum Acts for the storage of petrol	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
<u>Visits</u> - re water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
<u>Bakehouses</u> (1), <u>Slaughterhouses</u> (4), inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
<u>Public Schools</u> - inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
<u>Dairies</u> - visits to	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
<u>Visits</u> - re food inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
<u>Other Inspections</u> - under Housing acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
<u>Visits</u> - re refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
<u>Inspections</u> - Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
<u>Caravans</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85

ICE CREAM

Premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream	NIL
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	59

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The only licensed slaughterhouse used in connection with a small retail butchering business was brought up to the required standard several years ago and has since been maintained in a satisfactory condition conforming in all respects with the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations.

It is used twice a week at least throughout the year and the animals slaughtered provide high quality meat for sale in the shop adjoining and from vans supplying the surrounding villages.

All meat is inspected in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 before being offered for sale and details will be found in the relevant table at the end of this report.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Although a few requests have been received, particularly from new residents, regarding the possibility of changing the system of collecting refuse from fortnightly to weekly, the Council, after consideration, have affirmed their satisfaction with the present arrangement. The service provided by the Contractor is efficient and from a ratepayers point of view, economical. Purpose built vehicles are provided by the Contractor and workmen employed are experienced and particularly obliging when dealing with elderly and handicapped people. After collection refuse is taken to a tip which has been in use for many years and then covered with quarry waste. The tip is inspected regularly for pest infestation and treatment for extermination carried out when necessary.

Suitable bins were provided on certain highway verges, also at picnic places and very few complaints of indiscriminate depositing of litter were received during the summer.

There are still a large number of houses in the district with drainage systems discharging into septic tanks which are emptied once per annum free of charge.

Houses with septic tanks or cesspools are generally speaking either in villages which have no public sewers or so situated that connection to a public sewer is either impracticable or uneconomic. As there is insufficient work to justify the acquisition of a tank waggon the services of a contractor have been obtained. There are relatively few firms specialising in waste disposal and the service given to ratepayers can only be described as being satisfactory so far as circumstances permit. It would appear that the firms rely on their drivers to make the best arrangements they can for the disposal of septic tank effluent, granting them a bonus for success in this respect. Drivers endeavour to obtain permission from farmers to dispose of effluent on agricultural land and at certain times of the year work is delayed because of weather conditions. Furthermore, there have been instances of drivers discharging effluent into ditches and causing offence to highway users and others. In order to prevent nuisance arising from the disposal of septic tank effluent by contractors it would seem reasonable to suggest that the local authority with an overall responsibility for public health should make suitable arrangements for the reception of tank waggons and contents.

Finally, the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act were used on several occasions during the year to obtain the removal of abandoned vehicles.

FOOD INSPECTION

A complaint was received from a purchaser who discovered a rusty screw when slicing a white loaf. On investigation it was apparent that this constituted an offence under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. On further inquiry however it was found that there were reasonable grounds for concluding that blame could be attributed to the firm of bakers who had actually manufactured the loaf in question. Legal proceedings were therefore instituted against this firm in accordance with the provisions of Section 113 (3) of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, the vendor being excluded from the case. The proceedings were successful, the Court imposing a penalty and awarding part of the costs to the Council.

The only change which may be recorded in respect of retail food premises is that some of the village shops now offer self service facilities, goods being attractively displayed in well designed cabinets. Incidentally, no contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were reported during the year and only a small quantity of canned food was surrendered and destroyed.

There are no poultry processing establishments in the Rural district.

DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF MILK

Seven distributors have premises in the district but no new applications for registration were received during 1971.

The results of samples submitted to the appropriate tests indicated the continuing high quality of milk available to those resident in the area.

The Somerset County Council remains the authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960 and issue the appropriate licences.

Fortunately, there was only one case of suspected Brucellosis notified during the year, the patient, aged five years, being the son of a farmer. The usual advice regarding precautions was given to the parents. It was also ascertained that the whole of the milk production was sent to a creamery for heat treatment and subsequent manufacture into cheese. The case was referred to the appropriate department of the County Council for further investigations.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	41	18	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises enforced by Local Authority	7	7	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	50	27	NIL	NIL

DEFECTS Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation in one instance - remedied on informal action.

OUTWORKERS There are 7 Outworkers in the District (concerned with wearing apparel).

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

	No. of Premises	No. Complying with Reg:16	No. of Premises to which Reg: 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg: 19.
Grocers	38	37	38	38
B utchers	3	3	3	3
Catering Premises (including licensed premises)	42	42	42	42
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Totals	88	87	88	88

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

Three licences are in force under the above Order in respect of plant and equipment currently operational. The premises concerned have been visited during the year; no defects were found nor could the methods employed be adversely criticised. Furthermore, no complaints were received in respect of any of the establishments referred to.

No new licences were issued during the period under review and none revoked.

A circular was sent to all licensees early in the year indicating that the Ministry were concerned at the increasing incidence of fowl pest throughout England and parts of Wales which in many instances could be attributed to the handling of waste foods. The licensees were requested to ensure that waste food was not only properly boiled in accordance with the Order but also that the boiled product was not re-contaminated by persons handling raw waste, implements, spilled raw waste, or by other means. Moreover, it was emphasized that no poultry should have access to raw waste and persons handling raw waste were advised to change or properly clean and disinfect their outer clothing before tending poultry.

No difficulties have been experienced in controlling the establishments covered by the Order, the licensees being well aware of their responsibilities.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

No cases reported during the year requiring formal action.

MEAT INSPECTION

Period - 1st January / 31st December, 1971

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	84	NIL	1	349	144	NIL
Number Inspected	84	NIL	1	349	144	NIL
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysterci: Whole Carcases condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	NIL	NIL	2	9	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysterci:	7.14%	NIL	NIL	0.58%	6.25%	NIL
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally Condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of Meat condemned (in lbs.) for:- (a) Tuberculosis	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Cysticercosis	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(c) Other	84	NIL	NIL	4	16	NIL
Total (in lbs.) condemned	84	NIL	NIL	4	16	NIL

